

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-26 Building Date: circa 1910

Building Name: John Trammell/Judge James Taylor House

Location: 717 59th Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Trammell/Taylor House is a large two-and-one-half-story, side-gabled frame dwelling, Classical Revival in style, presently covered with white asbestos shingle. It is distinguished by its deep boxed cornice, returned at the gable ends, and its cornice decoration of jigsawn brackets alternating with smaller modillions. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay west facade, and is sheltered by a one-story gabled entry porch with Tuscan columns. Above the entry porch at second level is a narrow nine-pane diamond-shaped window, and a single-pane octagonal window lights the loft level in each gable end. There is a large hip-roof dormer centered in the main west plane of the roof.

Significance:

The John Trammell/James Taylor House is a handsome representative of Classical Revival style domestic architecture. It was built circa 1910 on one of the lots in the Fairmount Heights subdivision. One of the most substantial houses in the early development of Fairmount Heights, it was built circa 1910 for John and Martha Trammell, who purchased these two unimproved lots from developer Robinson White in 1907. John Trammell worked as a waiter in a restaurant when he first settled in Fairmount Heights. The Trammells sold their handsome house in 1937, and in 1961 it became the home and law office of Circuit Court Judge James H. Taylor; it remains today the home of his family. James Taylor was born in Elk Ridge, was educated at Howard University, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1956. He served as Assistant State's Attorney, Prince George's County, 1963-66, and Master for Juvenile Causes, 1966-68. In 1969, Taylor was appointed to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court; he served on the Court until 1988. The Trammell/Taylor House is one of the most handsome and substantial houses in Fairmount Heights; it is a good representative of a Classical Revival style, and a noticeable landmark in the town.

Acreage: 7,875 square feet

Survey No. PG#72-9-26

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Trammell House

and/or common Judge James Taylor House

## 2. Location

street & number 717 59th Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward Morris, Jr.

street & number 717 59th Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4066

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 214

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG#72-9-26

### Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John Trammell/Judge James Taylor House stands at 717 59th (originally Fairmount) Avenue. It was built circa 1910, on lots 5/6, Block E of the Fairmount Heights subdivision, which was platted in 1900.

This is a large two-and-one-half-story, side-gabled frame dwelling, Classical Revival in style, presently covered with white asbestos shingle. It is distinguished by its deep boxed cornice, returned at the gable ends, and its cornice decoration of jigsaw brackets alternating with smaller modillions. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay west facade, and is sheltered by a one-story gabled entry porch with Tuscan columns. Above the entry porch at second level is a narrow nine-pane diamond-shaped window, and a single-pane octagonal window lights the loft level in each gable end. There is a large hip-roof dormer centered in the main west plane of the roof.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG=72-9-26

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	ca.	1910	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John Trammell/James Taylor House is a handsome Classical Revival style domestic architecture. It was built circa 1910 on one of the lots in the Fairmount Heights subdivision.

The Town of Fairmount Heights is located just outside the easternmost point of the District of Columbia in Prince George's County, Maryland; it is composed of a group of early twentieth-century subdivisions that form one of the earliest planned communities for blacks in the Washington, D. C., area. The community began with the Fairmount Heights subdivision in 1900, followed by five adjoining subdivisions, the last being Sylvan Vista platted in 1923. The Town was incorporated in 1935, and grew steadily through the years before World War II.

The land which was to become Fairmount Heights consisted, during the late nineteenth century, principally of parts of the small farms of John H. Wilson, John and Caroline Silence, Samuel Hoover, Mosby Brown and John Wiessner, all clustered around the east corner of the District of Columbia. In the early years of the twentieth century, these farms were bought up and subdivided by land speculators, who then began to sell individual lots to black families, most of whom worked in the District of Columbia.

The first section of Fairmount Heights was subdivided in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark (both white men) out of parts of several small farms which they had purchased from the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. Robinson White was a lawyer and developer who resided in the District of Columbia; Allen C. Clark was a lawyer and manager of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C. White and Clark had approximately fifty acres surveyed by

County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer, and laid out in lots and streets radiating from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia. The deep, narrow lots were generally 25 by 125 feet; two of the streets were named for these first two developers. Sale of lots began almost immediately, and within a few years, dwellings were constructed and a community began to form.

From the beginning, blacks were encouraged to buy lots and settle in the new community. White and Clark sold the lots at relatively low prices, making home ownership finally attainable for black families. Most of the earliest purchasers of lots worked for government agencies; many built their own houses, or relied on friends and family to help with construction. Many families were quick to seize the opportunity to move out of the city, determined to progress, by hard work and amid healthful surroundings, toward a better life.

The earliest dwellings were of frame construction, modest in size and form, and many of these have not survived. Within a few years, however, several interesting and substantial houses were constructed for individuals who would make significant contributions to the development of Fairmount Heights.

This is one of the most substantial houses in the early development of Fairmount Heights. It was built circa 1910 for John and Martha Trammell, who purchased these two unimproved lots from developer Robinson White in 1907. John Trammell worked as a waiter in a restaurant when he first settled in Fairmount Heights. The Trammells sold their handsome house in 1937, and in 1961 it became the home and law office of Circuit Court Judge James H. Taylor; it remains today the home of his family. James Taylor was born in Elk Ridge, was educated at Howard University, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1956. He served as Assistant State's Attorney, Prince George's County, 1963-66, and Master for Juvenile Causes, 1966-68. In 1969, Taylor was appointed to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court; he served on the Court until 1988.

The Trammell/Taylor House is one of the most handsome and substantial houses in Fairmount Heights; it is a good representative of a Classical Revival style, and a noticeable landmark in the town.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-26

Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1906-1912  
Federal Census, Prince George's County, District #13, 1910  
Circuit Court Records, Seventh Judicial, 1969-1989

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7875 sq ftQuadrangle name Washington EastQuadrangle scale 1:24,000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

TM 65, FH Blk E, lots 4-6

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

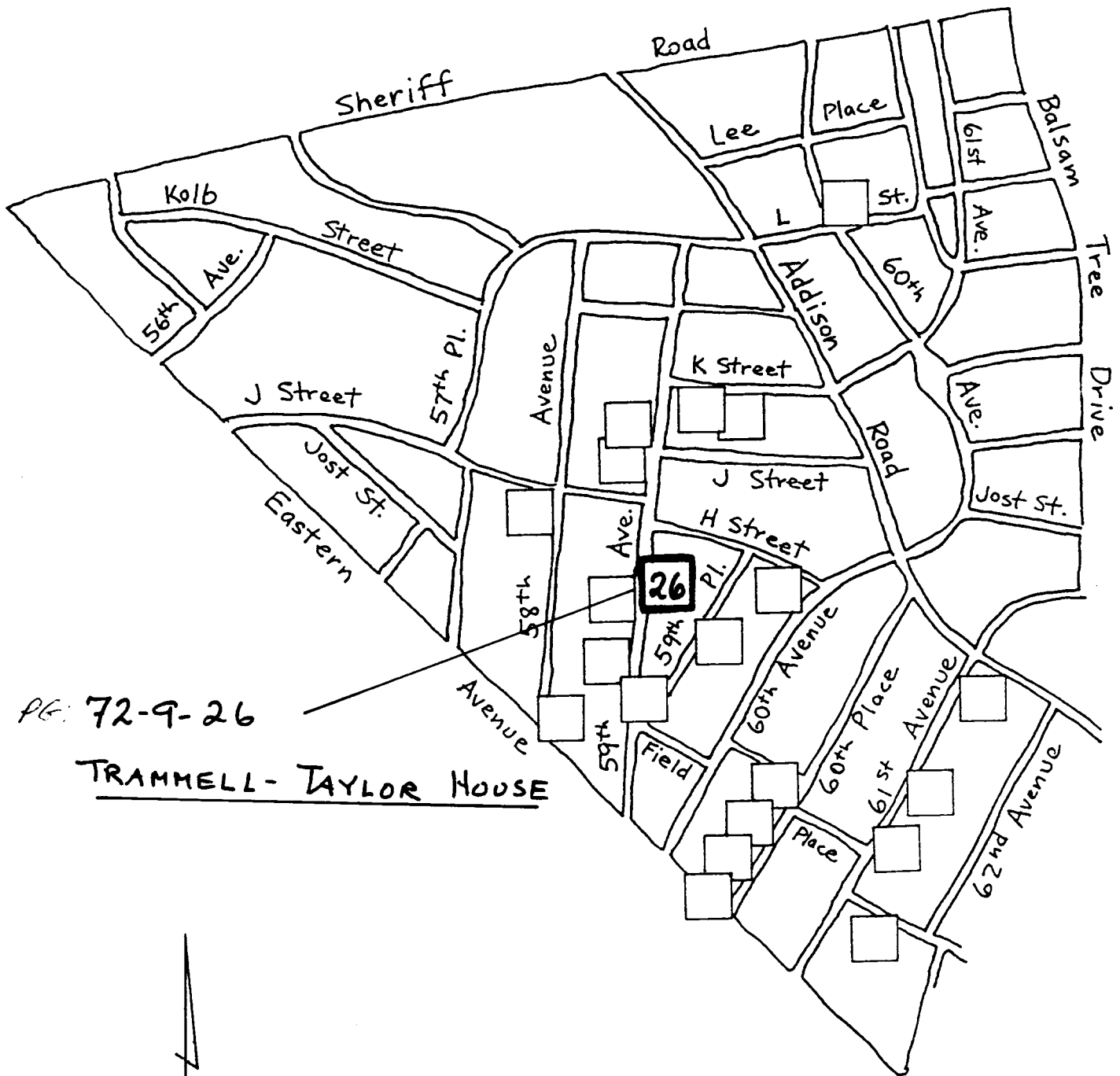
name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian  
organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991  
street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 4th floor CAB telephone 301-952-3521  
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

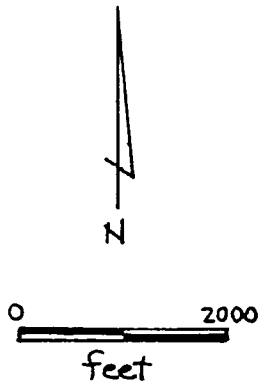
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

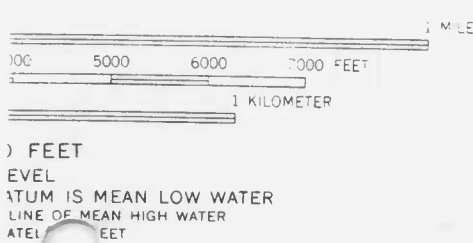
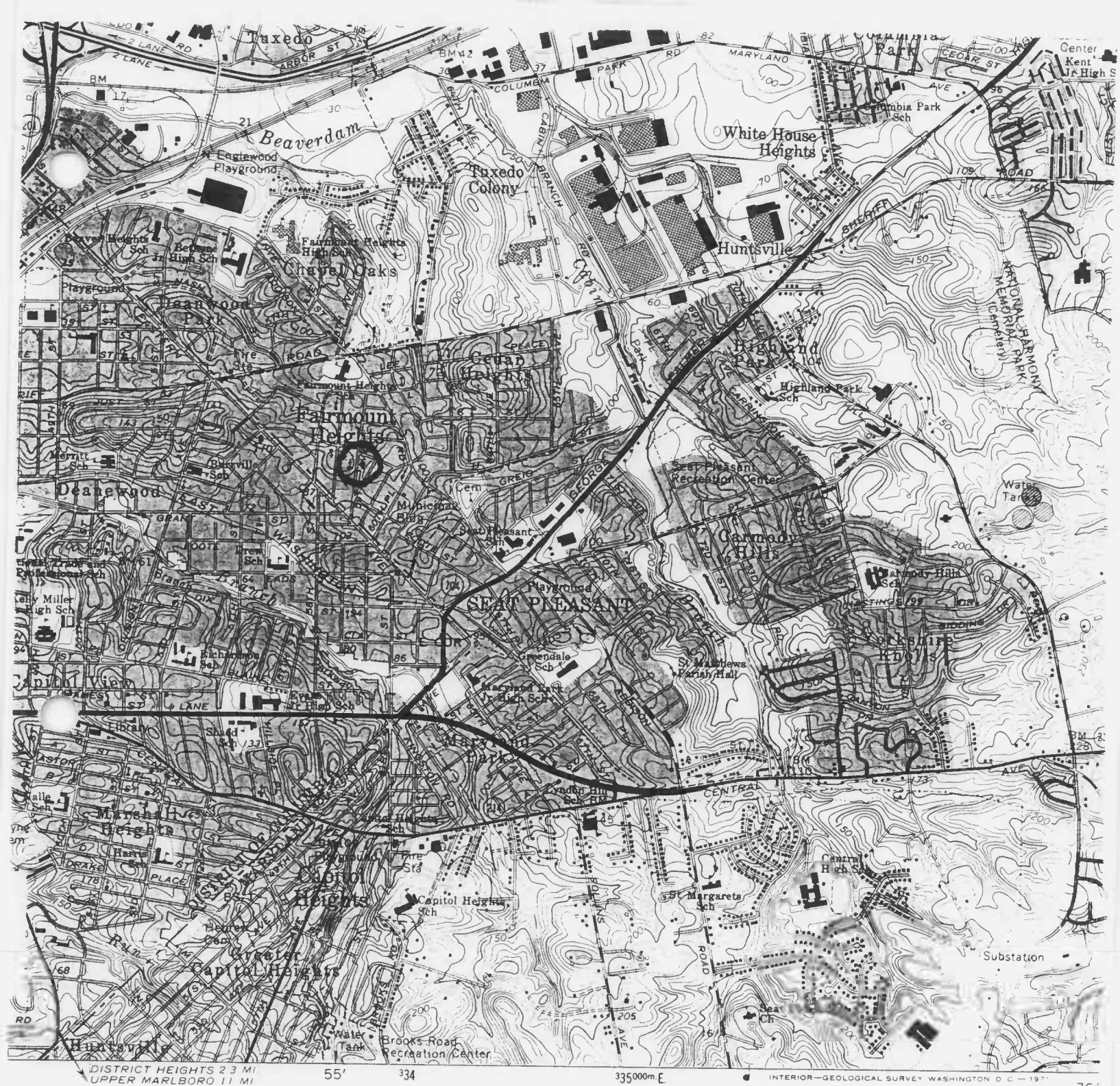
# Town of Fairmount Heights



PG: 72-9-26

TRAMMELL-TAYLOR HOUSE





PG. 72-9-26  
**72-9-26**



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION			
Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	
Interstate Route	U.S. Route	State Ro	

WASHINGTON EAST, MD. - D. C.  
 N3852.5 - W7652.5/7.5

1965  
 PHOTOREVISED 1971  
 AMS 5661 IV NW-SERIES V833

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 MBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





Pb # 72-7-26

Shammell-Lay's Horse

717 59<sup>th</sup> Ave, Summit Heights  
(FH E: 5/6) P.O. Co.

Susan G. Pearl

February 1991

West Jacoda  
1/8. 1147